



Action Research	1
Kudos	1
Just in Time PD	2
Creativity Education	2
Arts Standards	2
Disciplinary Literacy Arts Sessions	2
SLOs in the Arts Information	2
From the Field	3
Action Research History	3
Virtual Office Visits	4
Getting Connected	4
Arts Organization News	4
State Superintendent Updates	5
Fine Arts Professional Development Sites	5
DPI Sites	5
Events	5
VSA Call for Art	5

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## "Action Research"

### Why is it important to your practice?

Student Learning Objectives (SLO) and Professional Practice Goals (PPG) are on a lot of minds this year. **(BEWARE - positive comment coming your way, a proactive spin for your New Year.)** The SLO and PPG have the potential to inform not only our



ideas of teaching practice, but also our colleagues' understanding of arts education and how it is a valuable part of a comprehensive education. These two areas can effectively work within an Action Research framework. "Action Research" is something you are currently involved in - pulling together a question and data for evidence in your SLO or within your work, building your PPG. Action Research states of a need, develops a strategy to address the need, collects and analyzes data, and identifies next steps. The Maryland Action Research Toolkit for Arts Education describes teacher roles, systematically investigating the effects of their instructional practice on student learning. The online toolkit provides examples and a powerful rationale for the use of action research and data collection to highlight the importance of arts education as a comprehensive part of every child's education.

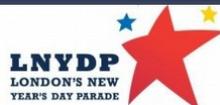
Consider the current opportunities of data collection as a means of advocating for the incredibly important and engaging lessons, skills, and knowledge being built within our young people through the arts. The questions you pursue, the instruction you implement, and the evidence you and your students are collecting are part of this story and offer you and your colleagues a glimpse into next steps for growth in the arts. Action research is a frame which can be naturally embedded within our day to day practice. Identifying a critical need, the strategy to address the learning issue, and means of collecting evidence for this need may all be done within our practice with students. Examples of evidence collection are available within a past newsletter. Also check the issue about Assessment in the Arts for more ideas on ways to collect data. Learn more about why to consider this method and examples on pages 2 and 3.

I wish you a renewed sense of energy in diving into the world of data through the arts. Keep me posted on your stories.

- Julie



## "Kudos"



Congratulations to music students of Middleton High School for being a part of the 2014-15 New Year festivities in London. The Middleton High School Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Drama programs performed at the following events - band in the New Year's Day Parade, the choir in the London International Choral Festival, the orchestra in Cadogan Hall Gala Concert Series, and drama students within workshops with professional actors. The groups are under the direction of teachers: Drama - Ms. Dando, Orchestra - Mr. Kurr, Choir - Mr. Mielke, Band - Mr. Schneider, and Band - Mr. Ver Voort. Website, News



Additional education sites:  
[Annenberg Learner](#)  
[ArtsEdge: Multimedia](#)  
[Art of Education \(AOE\)](#)  
[BadgerLink](#)  
[BBC Learning Zone](#)  
[Education Closet](#)  
[From the Top](#)  
[MAM Teacher Resources](#)  
[PBS Arts](#)  
[Teaching Channel](#)  
[Teaching Today](#)  
[Watch Know Learn](#)  
[Wisconsin Biographies](#)  
[Wisconsin Media Lab](#)

# Just in Time – Professional Development

**“Action Research is Learning by Doing.”**



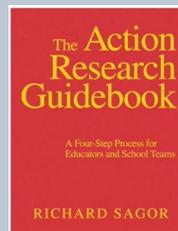
[A Practical Guide to Action Research for Literacy Educators](#) - This article has several great tips and descriptions for action research practices. Consider this link for your professional learning team discussions.

[Action Research: Three Approaches](#)—ASCD article sharing why teachers must be data experts.



[Maryland Action Research Toolkit for Arts Education](#) - Kit sharing method to investigate arts instructional practices for student learning.

[The Action Research Guidebook](#) by Richard Sagor—Video 4 minutes 55 seconds defines the role of educator in action research.



## Creativity Education

What creative practices have you been using within your classroom to support student learning? Share by submitting ideas within the online site - [Creative Classrooms](#) for future issue consideration. Check the resources below.

- [DPI Creativity Education](#) website
- [National Creativity Network \(NCN\)](#)
- [WIFACE](#) diigo site



[Creativity Education and Research](#) - Online site with articles and videos about creativity in education.

## Arts Standards



National Coalition for CORE ARTS Standards



The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) and SEADAE launched the standards in June 2014. Wisconsin has not adopted these standards at this time. However, please review the resources to inform your work in supporting learners in the arts. To learn more about standards in the areas of art, dance, media arts, music, and theatre, visit <http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>. The current Wisconsin Academic Learning Standards are online at: [Art and Design Education](#), [Dance Education](#), [Music Education](#), [Theatre Education](#).

## Disciplinary Literacy Arts Sessions

The [Tip Sheet](#) provides [DL Arts Examples](#)

**See the calendar online at the Fine Arts Professional Development site.** Sessions are posted. Please contact [Julie Palkowski](#) if your district is interested in discussing face-to-face, online, or networking options.

- [Fine Arts Assessment Review](#) Big Foot HS, 2/4/15 1-3:30pm
- [Disciplinary Literacy in the Arts](#) - Wilson Center, Brookfield, 2/16/15 1-4pm

**DISCIPLINARY LITERACY IN THE ARTS**  
**Tip Sheet**

**Disciplinary Literacy (DL) - Wisconsin Definition**  
 "Disciplinary literacy is defined as the synthesis of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field."

**What does DL mean for arts education?**  
 For DL in the classroom supports the continual building of skills, knowledge and techniques which focusing on the art form's discipline. What skills/strategies will be learning students experience with the arts through exploring, creating, responding, and performing.

**Disciplinary Literacy is NOT:**

- the same as or content area reading (literacy arts)
- for language arts only
- "the call" to replace general reading strategies (Kaufell, 2013)
- focused on every teacher's reading teacher (Pegibet-Lady, et al., 2010)

**Disciplinary Literacy IS:**

- aimed at what we teach versus how we teach
- exploring the content knowledge, experiences, and skills needed to develop proficiency
- a set of think reading, writing, listening, speaking, thinking, and performing) to support a more in-depth study of a content area.

The arts have unique symbolic systems of communication, allowing people across countries, cultures, and time to connect. The icons in these symbols which may include letters, numbers, lines, notes, and various images and make meaning of the ideas. The symbols are representative ideas and messages for the learner to decipher. The "disciplinary text" provides opportunities for the learner to interpret and then apply through exploring, creating, responding, and performing.

Visit past newsletter issues [2012-13 #7 & #8](#) to learn more about DL and "Informational Text."

**WORDS, #, Images, Auditory Cues**

## SLOs in the Arts

Resources and online materials:

- [Student Learning Objectives in the Arts PD site](#) provides all session materials and extension activities for learning.
- Fine Arts and Creativity newsletter issues - [2013 Issue #3](#), [Issue #4](#)
- [SLO in the Arts - Tip Sheet](#)
- [SLO Toolkit](#)
- [Wisconsin DPI SLO Site](#)
- [Updated Template \(Version 7\)](#)
- [Template and Critical Friends Document](#)
- Wisconsin arts SLO examples and rubrics for:
  - [Art](#)
  - [Choir](#)
  - [Dance](#)
  - [Instrumental Music](#)
  - [General Music](#)
  - [Theatre](#)
- [Disciplinary Literacy SLO Rubric Examples](#)





Here are lesson ideas from Wisconsin Arts Teachers. Feel free to email each person with additional questions about the ideas. If you would like to share a strategy for future newsletters, please submit these at the ["From the Field."](#) form.

## From the Field

**Title** - Elementary Art and Music Collaborate for Holiday Concerts

**Shared by** – [Juanita A. Edington](#), Music Teacher from Johnson Creek Schools

**Description** – On December 8, 2014, inspired by the Elementary Building's year long theme "Books Alive," Art and Music students created multi-media presentations with song, spoken word and original illustrations. Kindergarten, first and second graders presented "Twas the Night Before Christmas" written by Clement Clarke Moore and read by Mrs. Sue Miller. Third, fourth and fifth graders presented "The Polar Express," read by fifth grade students. For more details click on the links - [ES Art Music Johnson Creek](#), [Illustration Concert Videos](#)



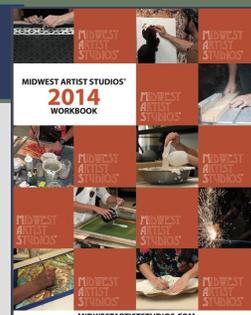
**Title** - Starter Questions for Critical Thinking

**Shared by** – [Eric Olson](#), Band Director of Chippewa Falls School District

**Description** – Check this blog for specific ideas on creating and implementing critical thinking questions within your music class with students. [cfmsband.blogspot.com](http://cfmsband.blogspot.com); [Eighth Note Half Questions Work Sheet](#)

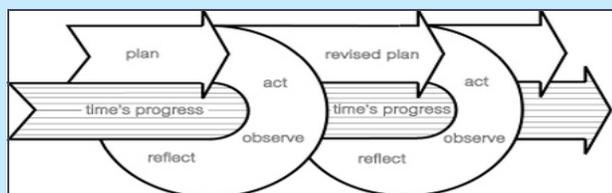
## Midwest Artist Studio Project

The Midwest Artist Studios Catalog and Curriculum Workbook features nine Midwest artists. Their lesson plans use the National Visual Arts Standards, implement technology, assessments, and differentiated instruction for grades 9-12; public, private, or home school settings. To learn more check the site [Details](#).



## "Action Research" History and Resources

The idea of Action Research was formally developed in the 1940s by Kurt Lewin who encouraged the cycle of planning, acting, observing, and reflecting on change within our instructional practice. This concept of research is basically learning by doing and offers the learner opportunities to reflect. ([Nugent, Malki, Hollingsworth, 2012](#))



Check these videos and articles about Action Research.

- [Action Research Made Simple](#)—2 minute video
- [Action Research](#)—4 minute video
- [Action Research Design](#)—4 minute video
- [Why Teachers Must Be Data Experts](#)—ASCD Article

Within our professional practice, we constantly build upon our areas of expertise and those areas needing support. Reflection is a major component within Action Research and connects well with our work constructing SLOs and PPGs. Consider this framework in your work. Here are a few ideas adapted from Teacher Action Research ([Chapter 2](#), [Chapter 11](#)) by G. Pine to get started.

1. Find critical friends to share in the journey.
2. Identify a question you are passionate about.  
I am curious about...; I would like to improve...
3. Don't be afraid to reframe the question. Think about the variables within this study.
4. Research the topic to see what else is "out there."
5. Collect data from a variety of sources.
6. Identify patterns, trends, & outliers that emerge and consider what these mean in instruction for learning.
7. Find meaning and identify next steps.

## Virtual Office Visits



Participate within an online office visit. Ask questions, listen, and share with Julie Palkowski and other fine arts colleagues. You can stay for the entire time or just a few minutes.

The visit is Wednesday, January 14, 2015, from 7:30am - 8:30am and 2:30pm - 3:30pm. Scan the QR code or go to the Today's Meet site - [WIFineArtsEducators.com](http://WIFineArtsEducators.com).  
[WIFineArtsEducators.com](http://WIFineArtsEducators.com)



## Getting Connected

Consider joining the Google + Communities - [Wisconsin Art Educators](#), [Wisconsin Music Educators](#), and/or [Wisconsin Theatre Educators](#). Set up a free [Gmail account](#), and then search within the [Google Communities](#).

As always, please share your ideas to help us foster arts excellence across Wisconsin.

- [Kudos](#) - Celebration news
- [From the Field](#) - Instruction
- [Creative Classrooms](#)



## Great Performances—Wisconsin Public Television



[Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors groups](#) are highlighted within this 56 minute video. More than 400 students participated within the State High School Honors Band, Orchestra, Mixed Choir and Treble Choir.



[Madison Symphony Bolz Young Artist Competition](#) - The link showcases past participants sharing about their experiences preparing for and performing in the competition. Stay tuned for the 2015 competition, hosted in March at the Overture Center in Madison. 6 minute video.



[Wausau West High School Pops Concert](#) - Congratulations to the performers and school community. A special congratulations to Phil Buch, retiring West High School Choral Director for his work in music education. 56 minute video.

## Arts Organization News

[WSMA - Launchpad 2015](#) - Participants must send in their band's recording and applications by Friday, February 6. For more information, visit the [Launchpad](#) web site. Paper applications may be downloaded and submitted to: WSMA Launchpad 2015, 1005 Quinn Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597.

[Heid Music Company Solo & Ensemble Workshops](#) provide students with critique from WSMA-sanctioned adjudicators to assist in bringing performances to the next level. Contact [jeff.gretzinger@heidmusic.com](mailto:jeff.gretzinger@heidmusic.com) for additional information by Jan. 16, 2015, to register for these FREE workshops for a location near you.



[Music Listening Project](#) - focused on listening activities with different musical styles, forms, and timbres for students in grades 4-6.



[Wisconsin Arts Board news](#)

[Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Educators](#)

[WAEA, Visual Arts Classic, Youth Art Month MAS Project](#) - [Click here to read A Note from the Founder, Frank Juarez and WAEA conference presentation.](#)



[The Wisconsin Dance Council](#) - Highlights and education news

[Wisconsin School Music Association; classroom honors activities](#)



[Music Education News & Information - NAFME](#)



[Visioneers Design Challenge](#)

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#### Fine Arts Professional Development Site -

<https://sites.google.com/a/dpi.wi.gov/fineartspd/>



## Follow Us



[Arts Education in Wisconsin](#)



[Creativity Education and Research](#)



[Inclusive Arts Education](#)



[Music Education and Research](#)



[WIFACE](#) - arts education diigo links



## State Superintendent News

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction updates are provided online. Highlights recently posted include:

[DPI Site](#) - latest news and links

[Agenda 2017: Every Child a Graduate, College and Career Ready](#)

[DPI ConnectEd](#) - arts articles

- [Lessons from an A Cappella Group](#) (October 2014)
- [Music and Art News](#) (March 2014)
- [Student Contests - Art, Photography...](#)(February 2014)
- For [past fine arts education related postings](#), click the link



## Events

- National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards - Deadline February 4, 2015. [Application](#)
- [WI DPI Fine Arts Professional Development Calendar](#)
- [WIFineArtsEducators](#) - Virtual office visits:  
Jan. 14, 2015, from 7:30am-8:30am and 2:30pm-3:30pm  
Feb. 12, 2015, from 7:30am-8:30am and 12:00pm-1:00pm  
Mar. 12, 2015, from 7:30am-8:30am and 2:30pm-3:30pm
- [UW Stevens Point Dance Productions](#), [Tickets](#), [Details](#)
- [VSA Wisconsin Events](#)
- [WCME Center Events](#)
- [Woodson Art Museum Teacher Resource Guide](#), Wausau
- [Youth Art Month Regional Events](#)

## NEW Fine Arts Professional Development

Visit the Fine Arts PD site for articles, resources, and videos focused on Fine Arts Education topics. Please share your suggestions for the site. Contact [Julie Palkowski](#) for additional options.

### DPI Fine Arts Sites

- [Fine Arts and Creativity Education](#)
- [Fine Arts Pedagogy](#); [Teacher Licensure](#) - fine arts
- Wisconsin Academic Standards posters:
  - [Art and Design](#)
  - [Music](#)
  - [Dance](#)
  - [Theatre](#)

## VSA Wisconsin – Call for Art



VSA Wisconsin, an organization that celebrates the artistic achievements of children and adults with disabilities, is issuing its annual statewide Call for Art to students with disabilities ages 5-21. A jury of art professionals will review the work. The submission deadline is February 9, 2015. Applications and more details are available on [VSA Wisconsin's website](#). All artists submitting to the Call for Art will have their work displayed in a public exhibition April 13 – May 2 at the VSA Wisconsin Gallery in Madison. A reception for the artists and general public will be May 2 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## Past Newsletter Issues